(b) if so, the details of the package Governments intends to offer to the textile sector to revive small and medium units;

(c) whether such a package would be worked out for bigger units also in the future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) In the Union Budget 2003-04, in addition to the allocations made, Government has announced for decentralized powerloom sector a Powerloom Package for Modernization having the following features:

Enlargement of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme to cover modernization of powerlooms.

A powerloom workshed scheme to create a better working environment and obtain higher productivity.

As a welfare measure, a group insurance scheme for all powerloom workers to provide them insurance cover against death, accident and disability.

(c) and (d) In addition it was also announced that Government is considering a mechanism for restructuring the debt portfolio of viable and potentially viable units in order to prevent sickness in the textile industry. The details to be decided in consultation with all the stakeholders Consultations have been held with all stakeholders but no decision has been taken by the Government.

Share of textiles in total exports

†*339. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textiles industry has a major share in total exports of the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the percentage of textiles in the total exports during 2000-2001, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to increase this percentage of export in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Directorate General Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the share of textiles in country's total export was 27.3% in 2000-01, 24.6% in 2001-02 and 22.7% in 2002-03.

(c) Government have been taking a number of measures to boost textile exports and thereby increase the share of textile exports in Country's total exports. Some of the important initiatives are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encourage backward integration the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

(v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements to textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the textile products pre-tested for conforming to the requirements to importing countries.

(vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for importing focused

thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme' (TCIDS) has been launched.

Shrinking of Glaciers

†*340. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Ministry are aware of the fact that glaciers of many snow rivers are shrinking in the country:

(b) if so, the names of glaciers which are shrinking;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any special scheme for conservation of originating sites of snow rivers under water conservation scheme of rivers including Ganga-Yamuna as well as conservation of catchment areas of tributaries of these rivers; and

(d) If not, the alternative steps proposed to be taken to raise water level in these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the studies carried out by Geological Survey of India, a subordinate office under administrative control of Ministry of Mines, the majority of glaciers of Himalayan region are passing through, a phase of recession. Recession and advancement of Glaciers is a natural cyclic process.

(b) Though most of the Himalayan Glaciers are shrinking the names of the few important ones are Gangotri, Bhagirathi Karak, Dunagiri, Pindar, Milam and Bandar Punch in Uttaranchal; Gara, Shaune Garang, Chota Shigri, Bara Shigri, Sonapani, Miyar and Hamtah in Himachal Pradesh; Machoi and Likir in Jammu and Kashmir and Changme Khangpu in Sikkim.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Water Resources has no proposal under their consideration to formulate any special scheme for conservation of orginating sites of snow rivers and no specific alternate steps are proposed to be taken to raise water level in these rivers.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.